

Central Assistance to Bihar

6053. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total Central assistance sanctioned inclusive of grants to Bihar during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) whether the complaints regarding improper utilisation of development funds have been referred to the State Government;

(c) whether the full amount of loans and grants which were sanctioned have been released to the State Government within the financial year; and

(d) if not, the amount of loan and grant actually released to the State Government

during each of the above financial years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Total Central assistance (comprising loans and grants) allocated to Bihar is Rs. 1209.22 crores during 1990-91 and Rs. 1567.39 crores during 1991-92.

(b) Yes, Sir, One complaint has been referred to the State Government. However, another letter having a reference of improper utilisation of development funds in the State but seeking allocation of some funds on constituency basis, has not been referred to the State Government.

(c) and (d). The amounts of loans and grants allocated and released during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 are as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

	1990-91		1991-92	
	Loans	Grants	Loans	Grants
Allocation	803.21	406.01	1073.68	493.71
Released	948.83	418.93	798.57	476.38

The shortfall in 1991-92 was mainly due to a fall in Small Savings collections in the State.

Purchase of Newsprint

6954. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 261 on March 13, 1992, and state:

(a) the date of agreement for the purchase of newsprint by the State Trading Corporation from FINNPAP;

(b) the date of communication of the

option for the purchase of additional quantity of newsprint by the STC from the FINNPAP;

(c) the date of advance by the STC to FINNPAP suspending the order; and

(d) the exact legal provision in the purchase agreement regarding the cancellation of orders already placed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The date of agreement for the purchase of newsprint by STC from FINNPAP and the date of communication of the option for the purchase of

additional quantity of newsprint are 16.10.91 and 30.12.91 respectively.

(c) STC informed the supplier on 13.1.92 not to go ahead with the production of newsprint, till such time as they hear from STC.

(d) The purchase agreement provides for cancellation of orders already placed in the event of default, delay in shipment and force majeure.

Setting up of Cotton Mills

6055. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton mills are meeting the requirements of handloom and powerloom industries in the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up new cotton mills in the country particularly in Aligarh during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of the (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of the (c) above.

Silk Weavers of Assam

6056. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any survey about the problems of Endi and Muga (special type of silk available only in Assam) weavers in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) There are several Plan and Non-plan schemes under implementation for the benefit of handloom weavers of the country including muga & eri weavers of Assam. However, no specific survey has been conducted for these weavers separately.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Export of Assam Tea

6057. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of Assam tea exported out of the total export of tea during 1991-92;

(b) whether the export of Assam tea has declined; and

(c) if so, steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost the export of Assam tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The total quantity of tea exported from the country in the year 1991-92 (April to January) is 186.37 m.lg worth Rs.1014.30 crores as against 181.79 m.kg worth Rs.984.96 crores in the corresponding period of the previous year 1991 is estimated to be 741.72 m. kg. out of which 387.87 m. kg. is the share of Assam.